

REMARKS

GENERAL OBJECTIONS AND 35 USC 112

Claim 22 is amended to add the full chemical name for PGMEA.

Claims 27, 34 and 35 have been amended to correct dependency.

Claim 39 is amended to recite at least three solvents, which should address the Examiner's concerns. Regarding claims 41 and 42, the solvents are not listed to recite just the one solvent, but to show that the phrase "at least one" means that there could be other solvents present in the solvent system, including those in claim 42. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record if he would like to discuss this rejection, but the Applicants believe it has been sufficiently addressed in this Response.

35 USC §103

Claims 18-21, 24-27, 30-36, 39-49 and 51-56 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over SU 1364051 in view of Drage (US 5858547) and Arial et al. (US 2003/0165774).

Claims 18-22, 24-27, 30-36, 39-49 and 51-55 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over SU 1364051 in view of Drage (US 5858547) and Arial et al. (US 2003/0165774) and further in view of Rahman et al (US 5928836).

Claims 18-21, 24-27, 30-36, 39-49 and 51-56 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over SU 1364051 in view of Drage (US 5858547) and Arial et al. (US 2003/0165774) and further in view of McCutcheon et al (US 2007/0105384) or Patil et al (US 2003/0207209).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with all of these rejections.

Claim 18 recites: " A planarization composition, consisting essentially of: a o-cresol-based polymer compound and a resol phenolic resin; at least one surfactant; and a solvent system comprising at least one alcohol and at least one ether acetate-based solvent."

Claim 36 contains similar provisions as the ones in Claim 18.

The primary reference in these rejections is the SU 1364051. These components in SU consist of quinone-based compounds, which function as absorbing compounds in the photoresist materials. The contemplated compositions of the present application do not contain quinones, and therefore, the claims have been amended to reflect that. The SU reference does not disclose compounds without quinones, and the remaining references are no longer relevant, and therefore, the current claims are allowable over the above-mentioned references.

The current amendments are made in this case to expedite prosecution of this application and should not be considered an admission by the applicant that other claims cannot be considered novel and non-obvious over this art. The Applicants plan to file a divisional application and potentially a continuation application in order to address other patentable embodiments; however, in order to focus this matter and move this case to allowance, the claims are amended to include "consisting essentially of" language.

CONCLUSION

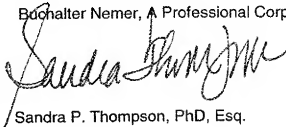
The undersigned Attorney-of-Record respectfully requests an interview to resolve any remaining issues the Examiner has after review of this response, in order to avoid additional and lengthy written prosecution. Dr. Thompson is available during the week from 8AM to 4PM PST and can be reached at 949-224-6282.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 18-22, 24-27, 30-36, 39-49 and 51-56 are pending in this application, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the claims in light of the arguments presented and allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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